



STATE OF NEVADA
STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

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DRAFT MINUTES
STATE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Wednesday, June 15, 2005 at 9:30 am
NRCS Field Office in Fallon
111 Sheckler Rd
Fallon, NV

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Chairman Settlemeyer called the meeting to order at 9:35am. Self-introductions of those present as follows:

MEMBERS PRESENT

James Settlemeyer, Gardnerville
Keith Whipple, Hiko
Sterling Wines, Ely
Vance Vesco, Winnemucca
Howard Glancy, Dayton Valley
Don Henderson, Carson City
Judy Currier, Las Vegas
Dr. Rangesan Narayanan, UNR, College of Agriculture

MEMBERS ABSENT

Joe Sicking, Winnemucca

OTHERS PRESENT

Pamela B. Wilcox, Executive Secretary to the Commission
Chris Freeman, President of the Nevada Association of Conservation Districts
Kelly McGowan, Nevada Division of Conservation Districts
Sandi Gotta, Nevada Division of Conservation Districts
Ana J. Jimenez, Nevada Division of Conservation Districts
Dan Kaffer, Natural Resource Conservation Service
Eddie Venturacci, Lahontan Conservation District
Scott Miller, Hiko

II. REVIEW, AMMENDMENT AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES – *ACTION*

- A. After reviewing the February 23rd meeting minutes, Keith made a motion to approve.
Vance seconded the motion. Motion passed.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

IV. INTERNAL DIVISION REPORTS

A. Status of the Division of Conservation Districts

1. *Fiscal Report* – Pamela B. Wilcox
 - a Ms. Wilcox gave a brief report on the division's budget.
2. *General* – Pamela B. Wilcox
 - a Ms. Wilcox thanked everyone for their support to districts during the legislative session. She especially thanked James, Howard and Chris for testifying in front of the legislature.
3. *Conservation District Meeting Logs* – Kelly McGowan – Sandi Gotta
 - a Kelly gave a report on the district's meeting logs and said that all the districts have met the three-meeting requirement to be in good standing.
 - b The National Association of State Conservation Agencies (NASCA) received a grant from NRCS to hold national hearing sessions to let producers talk about the delivery of NRCS Farm Bill programs. NRCS' goal is to improve the delivery of their programs by getting feedback from producers. The first meeting in the western area will be held in Park City, Utah on July 21st and 22nd. Kelly has one confirmation from Tonopah CD Supervisor, Dick Reason to attend the meeting. Kelly informed the commission that NASCA has given Nevada a scholarship for two producers to attend the hearing sessions with reimbursements of up to \$500 for each person, so he would like to see another producer from Nevada attend the western area meeting in Utah. This is a wonderful opportunity for producers to express their opinions about how they feel NRCS is delivering their programs.
 - c The next weed management training will be held in Reno October 11th through the 13th, 2005 at the Atlantis Hotel & Casino.
 - d There is a new effort to reestablish communication and cooperation between regional EPA, NDEP and NRCS. The agencies will meet quarterly. Efforts include trying to coordinate agency priorities and programs.
 - e There were three Nevada watersheds identified for CSP funding; Carson Desert, Pine and Walker.
 - f Kelly went over the division's measurement indicators. Contact between staff and district supervisors increased dramatically during the financial disclosure issues.
4. *General Correspondence* – Kelly McGowan – Sandi Gotta
 - a Sandi said there was a lot of focus on the Open Meeting Law during the legislative session. Staff had a lot of requests from districts for training to be in compliance with the Open Meeting Law and they are currently working on setting up a program that would include sample agendas and sample minutes to hand out to districts for future reference.

V. REPORTS TO THE COMMISSION (please limit to 5 minutes)

- A. *Department of Conservation & Natural Resources* – Allen Biaggi – not present

- B. *Department of Agriculture – Don Henderson* gave an update saying that all four agency sponsored bills passed. John O'Brien is the new Administrator for Plant Industry Division and Ed Foster replaced John O'Brien as the Northern Nevada Coordinator. They have had a successful cricket season; they had federal money to spray 420,000 acres whereas three years ago they were only able to spray 70,000 acres.
- C. *University of Nevada, Reno – Dr. Rangesan Narayanan* said the contract for the Great Basin Plant Material Center was approved by NRCS and was submitted to the Board of Regents. Once it is approved it will be sent to NRCS for signature. There is a \$1.7 million budget to build the plant material center.
- D. *Natural Resources Conservation Service – Richard Vigil*
Dan Kaffer reported for Richard Vigil. Dan thanked everyone who provided support for the new plant material center.
- E. *Farm Service Agency – Roger Van Valkenburg* – not present.
- F. *Nevada Association of Conservation Districts – President, Chris Freeman*
Chris said that the Nevada Association of Conservation Districts' annual meeting will be held in Mesquite on November 9th and 10th. He is still trying to work out the details with CD of Southern Nevada. So far, 16 districts have paid dues to the association. The western RC&D gave a \$500 donation to the association to cover the Washington D.C. trip. Lobbying efforts during the legislative session included ethics issues, he also submitted legislation for the commission to receive and administer grants, which passed. Legislation he submitted for districts to get an increase in grant funds did not go through. A total of \$8,400 of the association's budget has been expended for travel, newsletter, supplies and wages.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

- A. *Discussion of approval of Nevada State Conservation Commission's Strategic Plan for 2005-2010 developed in October 2004.* *ACTION* After a short discussion and some recommendations to the strategic plan, Don made a motion to accept the strategic plan as a draft that will remain open to additional changes. Judy seconded the motion. Motion passed.

VII. NEW BUSINESS -

- A. *Review compliance of districts to Open Meeting Law and review of district meeting logs.* *ACTION* Staff reported that all districts have met the Open Meeting Law requirements.
- B. *Review of conservation districts budgets for FY05-06. Determination of compliance of budgets with legal requirements. (NAC 548.120(2))* *ACTION*
 1. Big Meadow - Don made a motion to approve their annual budget contingent changes to staff's satisfaction. Vance seconded the motion. Motion passed.
 2. Carson Valley – Vance made a motion to approve their annual budget. Don seconded the motion. Motion passed.
 3. CD of Southern Nevada – Keith made a motion to approve their annual budget. Don seconded the motion. Motion passed.
 4. Clover – Vance made a motion to approve their annual budget. Howard seconded the motion. Motion passed.
 5. Dayton Valley – Don made a motion to approve their annual budget. Keith seconded the motion. Motion passed.
 6. Duck Valley – Howard made a motion to approve their annual budget. Judy seconded the motion. Motion passed.
 7. Esmeralda – Keith made a motion to approve their annual budget. Sterling seconded the motion. Motion passed.

8. Eureka – Don made a motion to approve their annual budget. Keith seconded the motion. Motion passed.
9. Jiggs – Keith made a motion to approve their annual budget. Don seconded the motion. Motion passed.
10. Lahontan – Don made a motion to approve their annual budget. Judy seconded the motion. Motion passed.
11. Lamoille – Judy made a motion to approve their annual budget. Sterling seconded the motion. Motion passed.
12. Lander County – Vance made a motion to approve their annual budget. Howard seconded the motion. Motion passed.
13. Lincoln County – Don made a motion to approve their annual budget. Sterling seconded the motion. Motion passed.
14. Mason Valley – Don made a motion to approve their annual budget. Keith seconded the motion. Motion passed.
15. Nevada Tahoe – Judy made a motion to approve their annual budget. Howard seconded the motion. Motion passed.
16. Northeast Elko – Keith made a motion to approve their annual budget. Judy seconded the motion. Motion passed.
17. Owyhee – Hold until they provide staff with the appropriate clarification.
18. Paradise-Sonoma – Keith made a motion to approve their annual budget. Vance seconded the motion. Motion passed.
19. Quinn River – Judy made a motion to approve their annual budget. Howard seconded the motion. Motion passed.
20. Ruby Valley – Keith made a motion to approve their annual budget. Vance seconded the motion. Motion passed.
21. Smith Valley – Keith made a motion to approve their annual budget. Judy seconded the motion. Motion passed.
22. Southern Nye – Judy made a motion to approve their annual budget. Howard seconded the motion. Motion passed.
23. Starr Valley – Keith made a motion to approve their annual budget. Sterling seconded the motion. Motion passed.
24. Stillwater – Howard made a motion to approve their annual budget. Sterling seconded the motion. Motion passed.
25. Tonopah – Judy made a motion to approve their annual budget. Howard seconded the motion. Motion passed.
26. Vya – Keith made a motion to approve their annual budget. Sterling seconded the motion. Motion passed.
27. Washoe-Storey – Keith made a motion to approve their annual budget contingent clarification. Howard seconded the motion. Motion passed.
28. White Pine – Howard made a motion to approve their annual budget. Keith seconded the motion. Motion passed.

C. *Review of conservation districts' annual work plan for FY05-06. Determination of compliance of work plans with legal requirements. (NAC 548.120(2)) *ACTION**

Note: the following motions apply to items “C”, “D” and “E”.

1. Big Meadow – Judy made a motion to approve their annual work plan. Howard seconded the motion. Motion passed.
2. Carson Valley – Judy made a motion to approve their annual work plan. Vance seconded the motion. Motion passed.
3. CD of Southern Nevada – Keith made a motion to approve their annual work plan. Howard seconded the motion. Motion passed.

4. Clover – Vance made a motion to approve their annual work plan. Keith seconded the motion. Motion passed.
5. Dayton Valley – Keith made a motion to approve their annual work plan. Judy seconded the motion. Motion passed.
6. Duck Valley – Vance made a motion to approve their annual work plan. Howard seconded the motion. Motion passed.
7. Esmeralda – Judy made a motion to approve their annual work plan. Sterling seconded the motion. Motion passed.
8. Eureka – Howard made a motion to approve their annual work plan. Keith seconded the motion. Motion passed.
9. Jiggs – The commission asked staff to request more information on item “K” of their work plan. Keith made a motion to approve their annual work plan. Howard seconded the motion. Motion passed.
10. Lahontan – Vance made a motion to approve their annual work plan. Judy seconded the motion. Motion passed.
11. Lamoille – Keith made a motion to approve their annual work plan. Howard seconded the motion. Motion passed.
12. Lander – Judy made a motion to approve their annual work plan. Howard seconded the motion. Motion passed.
13. Lincoln – Howard made a motion to approve their annual work plan. Vance seconded the motion. Motion passed.
14. Mason Valley – Keith made a motion to approve their annual work plan. Sterling seconded the motion. Motion passed.
15. Nevada Tahoe – Vance made a motion to approve their annual work plan. Howard seconded the motion. Motion passed.
16. Northeast Elko – Judy made a motion to approve their annual work plan. Vance seconded the motion. Motion passed.
17. Owyhee – Owyhee’s work plan was tabled until further clarification.
18. Paradise-Sonoma – Vance made a motion to approve their annual work plan. Howard seconded the motion. Motion passed.
19. Quinn River – Keith made a motion to approve their annual work plan. Judy seconded the motion. Motion passed.
20. Ruby Valley – Keith made a motion to approve their annual work plan. Judy seconded the motion. Motion passed.
21. Smith Valley – Sterling made a motion to approve their annual work plan. Vance seconded the motion. Motion passed.
22. Southern Nye County – Vance made a motion to approve their annual work plan. Sterling seconded the motion. Motion passed.
23. Starr Valley – Keith made a motion to approve their annual work plan. Judy seconded the motion. Motion passed.
24. Stillwater – Sterling made a motion to approve their annual work plan. Howard seconded the motion. Motion passed.
25. Tonopah – Judy made a motion to approve their annual work plan. Vance seconded the motion. Motion passed.
26. Vya – Vance made a motion to approve their annual work plan. Sterling seconded the motion. Motion passed.
27. Washoe-Storey – Sterling made a motion to approve their annual work plan. Keith seconded the motion. Motion passed.
28. White Pine – Judy made a motion to approve their annual work plan. Keith seconded the motion. Motion passed.

- D. Preliminary finding of “Good Standing” status of conservation districts. (NAC 548.090(1)) *ACTION* Covered under item “C”.*
- E. Preliminary designation of conservation districts eligible for commission grants in fiscal year 2006 (NAC 548.120(2)) *ACTION* Covered under item “C”.*
- F. Legislative update – actions affecting the commission, conservation districts or natural resources in general. Staff *ACTION* The following is a status update of all the bills affecting districts as of June 15th. Sandi reported.*
- a SB 267 – closed meetings for administrative subject to attend - **Pending.**
 - b SB 293 – creates weed control coordinator in the Department of Agriculture - **Pending**
 - c SB 294 – allows Nevada State Conservation Commission to receive and administer grants – **Passed**
 - d SB 421 – Open Meeting Law requires audio recordings – **Passed**
 - e AB 64 – Exempts CD supervisors from filing a financial disclosure statement – **Passed**
 - f AB 94 – supplemental appropriation for district supervisor insurance – **Passed**
 - g AB 106 – replenish channel clearance maintenance and restoration \$250,000 – **Passed**
 - h AB 413 – appropriation for weed control – **Passed**
 - i AB 500 – Financial Disclosure for employees and ethics issues – **Passed**
 - j AB 530 – those who file financial disclosure forms to complete an ethics class – **Passed**
 - k AB 538 – various changes to financial disclosure/ethics – **Passed**
 - l AB 559 – 2% salary increase for state employees - **Passed**
 - m AJR 12 – urges Department of Transportation to revise regulations for hay securement requirements - **Passed**

VII. STAFF ITEMS – Division Staff Comments

- A. Staff informed the commission that they would be preparing a spreadsheet with containing data about the districts that meet the 7 requirements per NAC to be in good standing.

VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT – None

IX. NEXT COMMISSION MEETING *ACTION*

The next commission meeting will be a teleconference held at the Division of Conservation Districts office on July 26th, at 9 am.

X. ADJOURN – *ACTION*

James adjourned the meeting at 3:45 pm.